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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/890,508	08/21/2001	Ebe Hesterman	F-7078	3557

7590 02/13/2003

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EXAMINER

HENCE, ANDREA A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2854

DATE MAILED: 02/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/890,508

Applicant(s)

HESTERMAN, EBE

Examiner

Andrea A. Hence

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-20 are objected to because they are replete with informalities. Examples of these informalities include:

- Claim 1 recites the limitation "perfecting printing group". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- Claim 1 recites the limitation "the plate and/or rubber blanket cylinders". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim
- Claims 2, 5, 6, 11, 14, 16, and 18 recites the limitation "the cassette units". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- Regarding Claim 3, remove the term "at" between "position" and "can".
- Regarding Claim 3, "always are" is not grammatically correct.
- Claim 7 recites the limitation "inking and dampening groups". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- Regarding claim 7, there is a double positive recitation of "perfecting printing groups." Applicant has claimed "perfecting printing group" in claim 1 and later claims "perfecting printing groups."
- Regarding claim 10, there is a double positive recitation of "a servicing position."
- Claim 11 recites the limitation "rails" and "the corresponding side frames". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- Referring to claim 12, please replace the term "for" between "provided" and "make" with "to".

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- Claim 13 recites the limitation "the cassette housing". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- Claim 15 recites the limitation "the axial displacement". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim
- Claim 16 recites the limitation "additional units". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- Referring to claim 17, the use of parenthesis is not proper.
- Claim 19 recites the limitation "the gear wheel connections", "the servo drive" and "the gear wheels ". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
4. Regarding claims 1, the phrases "especially" and "or the like" render the claim(s) indefinite because the claim(s) include(s) elements not actually disclosed (those after "especially" and encompassed by "or the like"), thereby rendering the scope of the claim unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

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5. Claim 1 recites the limitation "axially". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim and it is unclear what axis is being referred to. Regarding claim 1,

Examiner has interpreted the word "axially" in its broadest form as being "along any axis."

6. Regarding claim 16, the phrase "such as" and "or the like" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

7. Claim 19 recites the limitation "the pressure actuation and the pressure take-off". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The scope is unclear since it cannot be determined what is meant by the phrase "during the pressure actuation and pressure take-off". "The gear wheels intermesh without backlash during the pressure actuation and the pressure take-off" of what?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1-4, 9-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morgan (WO 87/04665).

Referring to claim 1, Morgan teaches a printing machine, with a counter-pressure cylinder (17) and at least one printing group (14) which is disposed between a feed system (13) and a delivery system (20) in the direction of rotation thereof, wherein the plate (15) and/or rubber blanket

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cylinders (16) of the printing group (14) are constructed as a cassette-shaped modular unit (26), which can be shifted from a use position axially into a servicing position (See page 3, lines 5-12)

Referring to claim 2, Morgan teaches the printing machine wherein the cassette unit (26) alternatively can be shifted in either direction of the axis of rotation (the X axis) of the counter-pressure cylinder (17) into the servicing position. (See Figure 4)

Referring to claim 3, Morgan teaches the printing machine of claims 1 or 2, wherein the cassette unit (26), after its rubber blanket cylinder (16), which always are in contact with the counter-pressure cylinder (17) in the printing position at, can be shifted axially into the servicing position. (See page 8, lines 10-17)

Referring to claim 4, Morgan teaches the printing machine of claims 1 or 2, wherein the cassette unit (26) in the servicing position is located completely next to the counter-pressure cylinder (17). (See Figure 2)

Referring to claim 9, Morgan teaches the printing machine of claims 1 or 2, wherein said machine is constructed as a three-cylinder printing machine (15, 16, 17), the plate cylinder (15) and rubber blanket cylinder (16) of which can be shifted jointly as cassette units (26) axially into the servicing position. (See page 11, lines 12-15).

Referring to claim 10, Morgan teaches the printing machine of claims 1 or 2, wherein said machine is constructed as a cylinder printing machine, having more than three cylinders (See cylinders in (26 and 30)), the plate cylinder (15) and rubber blanket cylinder (16) of which can be moved jointly as corresponding cassette units, axially into a servicing position. (See page 11, lines 12-15).

Referring to claim 11, Morgan teaches the printing machine of claims 1 or 2, wherein the

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cassette units (26) of the printing groups are supported on rails (27) of the corresponding side frames (frame of (26)) of the printing groups and can be shifted on said rails (27) or together therewith in guides (67,68) of the side frames parallel and free from backlash. (See page 9, lines 26-29).

Referring to claim 12, Morgan teaches the printing machine of claims 1 or 2, wherein a plate cylinder (15) of the cassette units (26) is seated in a cassette housing (frame of (26)), so that it can be adjusted axially in the peripheral direction and obliquely, and adjusting means (88,89) are provided for make adjustments even while the printing machine is running.

Referring to claim 13, Morgan teaches the printing machine of claims 1 or 2, wherein the plate and rubber blanket cylinders (15,16) of the printing groups are adjustably supported by drive means within the cassette housing (See page 8, lines 22-25), individually by themselves and/or jointly, against the counter-pressure cylinder (17).

Referring to claim 14, Morgan teaches the printing machine of claims 1 or 2, wherein the cassette units (26) have at least one servo drive (40) which is provided for driving the plate cylinder (15) and/or rubber blanket cylinder (16) and/or counter-pressure cylinder (17). (See page 8, lines 22-25).

Referring to claim 15, Morgan teaches the printing machine, wherein additional drive functions (43) can be performed with the servo drive, which is provided for the axial displacement. (See page 8, lines 25-28)

Referring to claim 16, Morgan teaches the printing machine of claims 1 or 2, wherein additional units (32) are provided within the range of displacement of the cassette units (26).

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Referring to claim 17, Morgan teaches the printing machine of claims 1 or 2, wherein the cassette unit (26) is formed by only one plate cylinder (15), the rotation of which is effected by the servo drive during an illustrating process.

Referring to claim 18, Morgan teaches the printing machine of claims 1 or 2, wherein a supporting guide assembly (86-89) is provided within the range of displacement of the cassette units (26).

Referring to claim 20, Morgan teaches the printing machine of claims 1 or 2, wherein an additional unit (30), which is constructed as a displaceable cassette unit for processing the printing stock further, is provided at the printing machine in close proximity to the delivery system (20). (See Figure 5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morgan (WO 87/04665).

Referring to claim 5, Morgan teaches the printing machine wherein the cassette unit (26) is supported in a servicing position. Morgan does not teach the printing machine wherein the cassette unit (26) is supported in a servicing position in a dust free environment. It would have

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been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Morgan by placing the machine during service in a dust-free environment to minimize the dust on the machine and thereby facilitate operation of the cassette unit.

12. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morgan in view of Belanger (5,363,762).

Referring to claim 6, Morgan teaches the printing machine wherein printing groups (31) in the area of their plate and/or rubber blanket cylinders (15,16) form the cassette-shaped modular units which can be shifted axially into the servicing position. (See Figure 4). Morgan does not teach the printing machine wherein the machine is constructed as a satellite printing machine.

Belanger teaches a satellite printing machine (Figure 1) wherein the satellite printing groups (area comprising (6,10); (5,9)) in the area of their plate and/or rubber blanket cylinders (6,10); (5,9)) form the cassette-shaped modular units which can be shifted axially into the servicing position (See Column 2, lines 18-25). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Morgan to be a satellite printing machine such that there are transfer and plate cylinders assigned in pairs to an impression cylinder to allow for printing multiple colors on a single printing unit as taught by Belanger.

Referring to claim 7, Morgan teaches the printing machine wherein the printing machine has one or more perfecting printing groups (26) as a cassette-shaped modular unit or units, which can be shifted jointly with their inking and damping groups (18,19) axially into the servicing position (See Figure 5). Morgan does not teach a satellite printing machine with these features. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Morgan to be a satellite printing machine such that there are transfer and plate cylinders

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assigned in pairs to an impression cylinder to allow for printing multiple colors on a single printing unit as taught by Belanger.

13. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morgan in view of Belanger and further view of Weschenfelder (6,408,746). Morgan and Belanger teach all that is claimed as described above except they do not teach the printing machine wherein more than four satellite printing groups are provided. Weschenfelder teaches a printing machine wherein more than four satellite printing groups are provided (See Column 2, lines 20-25). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Morgan and Belanger such that more than four satellite printing groups are provided to print more than four colors as taught by Weschenfelder.

14. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morgan in view of Kleber (4,793,229). Morgan teaches a printing machine wherein gear wheel connections which are provided within the area of the servo drive between the plate cylinder (15) and the rubber blanket cylinder (16) such that gear wheels intermesh without backlash (See page 4, paragraph 3) during the pressure actuation and the pressure take-off (pressure engaging and disengaging the cylinders). Morgan does not teach gear wheel connections supported by a spring-mounted compensating cogging system. Kleber teaches gear wheel connections supported by a spring-mounted compensating cogging system (See Column 5, lines 35-45). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Morgan's gear wheel connections by adding a spring-mounted system to overcome the tendency of the driven gear to move backward through the backlash zone as taught by Kleber.

Conclusion

15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- EP 1205297 A1 – Satellite printing unit where the whole additional printing press or parts of it can be moved backwards or forwards relative to the associated transfer cylinder in or opposite to the printing press length direction
- WO 02/07972 A1 – There are at least three separable frame modules with the counter pressure cylinder arranged in the middle frame module and at least one left printing unit in the module on each side.
- DE 2928539 A1 – Satellite printing unit where the transfer cylinders are situated side by side or stacked and can be adjusted by eccentric sleeves in pairs relative to each other.
- Rohloff (6,220,156) – A plurality of individual printing groups, arranged about the periphery of a counter-pressure cylinder, can be raised and lowered.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrea A. Hence whose telephone number is (703) 305-8427. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday; 8:30a-5:30p.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (703) 305-6619. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

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Andrea A. Hence

AAH

February 7, 2003.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew H. Hirshfeld", written in a cursive style.

ANDREW H. HIRSHFELD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800